

Application No.: 10/791966

Case No.: 59522US003

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 24-27 are withdrawn. Claims 1-10 are rejected.
Claims 11-23 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 24-27 are hereby canceled. Claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 have been amended to directly, or indirectly, depend from allowed claim 11. Claims 28-33 have been added and are duplicates of claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 made to directly, or indirectly, depend from allowed claim 18.

REJECTIONS§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hishinuma et al. (US Pat. 6848176) in view of Hirose (US Pat. 6097097).

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, and 3, and have amended claim 4 to depend from allowed claim 11, making this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant(s) request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hishinuma et al. (US Pat. 6848176) in view of Hirose (US Pat. 6097097) as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of admitted prior art (APA).

Applicants have cancelled claim 5, making this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant(s) request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hishinuma et al. (US Pat. 6848176) and Hirose (US Pat. 6097097) as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of admitted prior art (APA) and Uchida et al. (US Pat. 5248446).

Applicants have amended claim 6 to depend from allowed claim 11, making this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant(s) request that the rejection be withdrawn.

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Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hishinuma et al. (US Pat. 6848176) and Hirose (US Pat. 6097097) as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of admitted prior art (APA), Fujihara et al. (US Pat. Application Pub. 2004/0097694) and Ono et al. (US Pat. Application Pub. 2004/0094512).

Applicants have amended claims 7-10 to depend from allowed claim 11, making this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant(s) request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicant(s) submit that a dependent claim should be considered allowable when its parent claim is allowed. *In re McCairn*, 1012 USPQ 411 (CCPA 1954). Accordingly, all claims depending from allowed independent claims 11 and 18 should also be allowed.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is requested. A Notice of Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant(s)' attorney if the Examiner believes any remaining questions or issues could be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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